

to work to outbid the Soviet Union to buy friends abroad. Now, in a new post-cold-war world that is fundamentally different from the old one, our foreign affairs apparatus is too big and outdated.

The American Overseas Interest Act will overhaul the foreign aid bureaucracy by merging three independent agencies into the State Department, eliminating outdated bureaucracies, and doing away with conflicting and divisive foreign policy. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and vote for eliminating bureaucracy and streamlining foreign policy. We need foreign policy for the nineties, not for the fifties.

□ 1030

DR. FOSTER DESERVING OF SUPPORT FOR SURGEON GENERAL POSITION

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Dr. Henry Foster's nomination for the position of Surgeon General. Dr. Foster's credentials are impeccable. In my opinion, his background symbolizes the type of doctor we are seeking to fill this important position.

Throughout his career, Dr. Foster has immersed himself in alleviating two of our Nation's biggest problems, the crisis of teen pregnancy, and the tragedy of drug abuse. Teen pregnancy and drug abuse are perhaps the biggest factors in the high school dropout rate today, not to mention the crime, poverty, and child abuse that is rampant throughout our Nation. It is commendable that Dr. Foster has recognized this, and taken the time to reach out to the teenagers in his community and across the country.

I am offended by the way the radical right of this country and in this Congress have treated Dr. Foster. They are playing politics with a good man's life, and I object.

Dr. Henry Foster exemplifies the strong values and innovative thinking that this country needs in a leader, especially now during these difficult times. I ask that my colleagues in the Senate please bring the Foster nomination to the floor, and vote to confirm his appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Chair reminds Members that they should not refer to the confirmation process in the Senate in their remarks here in the House.

CRUEL CUTS IN STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor because I heard an extraordinary exchange earlier between the Democratic leader, who justly slammed the Republicans' budget for its cuts in student loans and grants that will add \$5,000 to the debt burden of the typical financial aid student graduating from college in future years for families that earn less than \$75,000 a year. A Republican freshman rose on the other side to say he would sacrifice for the sake of his daughter, he would take those financial aid cuts for the sake of his daughter.

Well, I have got news for him. He earns \$133,000 a year as a Member of Congress. He had a successful career as a sportscaster. His daughter does not need help to go to college, but millions of other American kids do who come from families of modest means, and he is stomping on their fingers as they try and reach that first rung of the ladder to climb up to the success that we all strive for in this country.

These cuts are cruel and they fall only on families who earn less than \$75,000 a year. That is the Republican budget's answer for student financial aid.

CUTS IN STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM AFFECT AVERAGE AMERICANS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring attention to the dramatic real-life effects that the proposed cuts to Federal student loan programs and the elimination of the Department of Education will have on average Americans.

I am one of 13 children born to parents of fifth and sixth grade educations. For families like mine and maybe even others, more importantly for the millions of middle-class taxpayers, the American dream of education and improving their lives for the next generation will be just that, a dream.

On Saturday I received my doctor-of-ministry degree. For the most part I earned my degree because of my personal commitment to self-improvement and self-responsibility and the fact that somebody along the way cared about my future.

Without the National Defense Student Loan Program, I would not have even had the opportunity to go to college in the first place. It was a loan. I paid it back. Others will do the same thing if given the opportunity.

We must be mindful that even with all of our ivory tower exhortations about the virtues we hold dear, some-

body out there in real life places outside of Washington needs a helping hand. We should care enough, even if nobody else does, to help them to make their American dream come true by getting the best education they can. We can do it by maintaining student support.

STUDENT LOANS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about a letter I recently received from Maria Casillas. Maria lives in my district and writes:

Cuts in student aid just don't make sense. Student aid actually saves taxpayers money by stimulating economic growth and increasing productivity. Student aid is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to get a better education than my mother or grandmother had. I work hard in school to get good grades and without financial aid, I could not afford college.

Maria wants to go to college and without Federal funding for student loans, she will not have the opportunity to do so. We cannot afford to squander our human resources. Let us invest in the future of our country. Let us provide Maria and young men and women like her with the educational opportunity they deserve. Let us do what is right for the people of this Nation, not what is right for the privileged few.

CALL FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

(Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge today that the Republican members of the Ethics Committee defeated a motion to appoint a special counsel to look into the complaints against the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH. I am disheartened by this action, and I know many of my colleagues as well as public interest groups share my feelings.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you now to do what is right. Release the Republican members from their obligation to vote in lockstep. These are men and women of conscience for whom the vote consequence is beyond any inquiry into your actions.

Rise up and meet the appropriate precedent of the past. Permit the committee and this House to conduct a fair and formal investigation through the vehicle of a special counsel. Anything less falls short of your moral obligation and our collective responsibility to the public. As quoted by Al Hunt in today's Wall Street Journal, there is no way that the House of Representatives is going to achieve any credibility unless they go to an outside counsel.